

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic device of claim 21 further comprising an elongated centralized vertical extension, said centralized vertical extension comprising a horizontal axis, and a left and a right lateral extension along said ~~centralized vertical extension's~~ horizontal axis.

2. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 1, wherein said left and right lateral extensions comprise an inside edge, an outside edge, an upper surface and a lower surface, wherein said inside edge joins said centralized vertical extension to form a substantially horizontal plane.

3. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 2, wherein said upper surface forms an angle of about 0 to 60 degrees below said substantially horizontal plane.

4. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 2, wherein the length of said inside edge is less than the length of said outside edge.

5. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 2, wherein said inside edge has a greater thickness than said outside edge.

6. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 2, wherein said upper surface is barbed.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

7. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 2, further comprising a recess wherein said upper surface joins said centralized vertical extension.

8. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 21, further comprising a flexible bladder.

9. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 8, wherein said flexible bladder comprises a material enclosing an internal cavity.

10. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 8, wherein said internal cavity is empty.

11. (Currently Amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to ~~claim 8~~ claim 9, wherein said material comprises a thin flexible biocompatible material.

12. (Currently Amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to ~~claim 8~~ claim 9, wherein said material further comprises a semi-permeable material.

13. (Canceled) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 8, wherein said internal cavity contains a biocompatible fluid.

14. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 13, wherein said biocompatible fluid is a hydrogel.

15. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 9, wherein said material further comprises an impermeable material.

16. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 9, wherein said internal cavity contains a biocompatible fluid.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

17. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 1, wherein said centralized vertical extension is of a shape selected from the group consisting of a trapezoid, circular and curved.

18. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 1, wherein said therapeutic or prophylactic device is made from a material selected from the group consisting of a biocompatible material, a bioactive material, and a bioresorbable material.

19. (Currently Amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to ~~claim 19~~ claim 18, wherein said therapeutic or prophylactic device comprises a biocompatible fiber mesh.

20. (Currently Amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to ~~claim 23~~ claim 21, wherein said therapeutic device comprises a material selected from the group consisting of: expandable polytetrafluoroethylene (ePTFE); a material to facilitate regeneration of disc tissue; and a hygroscopic material.

21. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device for treating a spinal disc annulus having an aperture, the device comprising a biocompatible material for placement in and across the aperture such that said material forms a bridge providing a platform for a traverse of fibroblasts or other normal cells of repair exiting in and around the various layers of the disc annulus.

22. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device of claim 21 further comprising means for fixating said device in or to the annulus of a patient.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

BEST AVAILABLE COPY